

Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal

From: Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 11:54 AM
To: Abele, Ralph
Cc: Kimberly Damon-Randall - NOAA Federal; Mark Murray-Brown - NOAA Federal; Voorhees, Jeanne
Subject: Re: Proposed Federally Promulgated Aquatic Life Criteria in Maine

Hi Ralph,

Overall the information you have included and the standards you are proposing look good. There are a few holes in the analysis that needs to be addressed in order for us to begin section 7 consultation.

Please, for each part of the effects analysis where you say they are "not likely to adversely affect" listed species, also make a statement as to whether the effects are "insignificant" (so small they cannot be detected) or "discountable" (extremely unlikely to occur). Additionally, would you please add the language that you "certify" that you have used the best available information to perform your analysis at the end of the document.

Thanks!
-Chris

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On Mon, Jul 25, 2016 at 12:06 PM, Abele, Ralph <abele.ralph@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

Attached is a letter from EPA requesting concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service that the promulgation of certain federal water quality standards for aquatic life applicable to Maine is unlikely to adversely affect federally protected species, specifically Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), and shortnose sturgeon, (*A. brevirostrum*), and the Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon. We have also evaluated the effect on the proposed Critical Habitat for Atlantic Sturgeon.

Attached is a Biological Assessment for the proposed standards. We are sending detailed maps for each of the listed species in a separate email. Please contact me or Jeanne Voorhees [\(617\)918-1686](tel:(617)918-1686) if you have any questions. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Abele

Chief, Water Quality Branch

Office of Ecosystem Protection

EPA Region 1

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attachments